

Old Basing and District Royal British Legion (BR1890)

Charity number 219279

Minutes of the Branch Meeting 6th November 2025 at 7:30pm

Present: Ian Preston (IP) Vice Chairman, Joe Karmazyn (JK) Treasurer, Avril Mitchell (AM) Secretary, Tim Russell (TR), Tracey Merritt (TM), Sue Chewter (SC), Diane Matthews (DM) + 11 branch members

Apologies: George Mars, Ian Greenway, Julie Karmazyn, Chris Beadle, Alex Dawes, Garry Griffiths

The Act of Remembrance was carried out by IP

1. The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated prior to the meeting and adopted as a true copy. Proposed: SC, Seconded: DM
2. Matters Arising: None
3. Treasurer's Report: for the period ending 6th Nov 2025
O/Bal £5,159.60cr
Receipts £ 616.00 – BT Dinner inc raffle, RBL fees
Payments £1,557.00 – BT Dinner refunds, Catering, Port, DJ. Remembrance Order of Service
C/Bal £4,218.60cr

BFI

O/Bal £41.67Cr. Interest of 21p. C/Bal £41.88cr

BPT

O/Bal £23,188.92cr

Receipt £1,246.75

Interest £ 121.85

C/Bal £24,557.52Cr

Black Tie Poppy Launch dinner:

60 Tickets at £40 each £2,400.00cr

Raffle £ 110.00

Total Income £2,510.00

DJ £ 300.00

Port (Loyal Toast) £ 26.00

Catering £1,202.00

Total Expenditure £1,528.00

Net balance paid to Poppy Appeal £982.00 Chq 001547

Report proposed JK, seconded TR

A cheque of £25 in the name of G Ottoway for the estate of Don Walker received. JK to issue a receipt

4. Poppy Appeal Report:
 - 4.1. We are in the second week of collections and Remembrance is upon us. The Saluting Officer for Sunday is Owen Reed-Beadle from RAF Odiham and a Chinook is expected around 11.00am.
 - 4.2. I have the honour of being invited to take part in The Muster at the RBL Festival of Remembrance. Eight people put forward nationally, three from Hampshire and I was chosen. This does mean I will not be around on Friday or Saturday to assist with Poppy Appeal and will rely on others to set up and close down.
 - 4.3. We have not started the Cash count and do not have figures for the Supermarket Banking, however our Contactless totals so far are: Old Basing £8,984.00 and Hook £12,267.46, together with monies received tonight our total is £23,529.35
5. Membership Report: Currently 474 members and 2 leavers. Failed payments <6

6. Club Report:
 - 6.1. Club AGM is 18th November at 8pm
 - 6.2. We will be showing Rugby and Football in the Bar
 - 6.3. Christmas Draw tickets on sale. Draw is 19th Dec
 - 6.4. Quiz Night 6th Dec + 28th Dec

7. Band Report:
 - 7.1. We played for the Poppy Launch, which was well received by all.
 - 7.2. We are involved in a number of Remembrance events, 8th Nov Rushmoor Nepalese Community service, 9th Nov Old Basing, 11th Nov Basingstoke Town
 - 7.3. In December we are playing Carols at Rowan Lodge 7th Dec and Chineham Centre 14th Dec

8. Correspondence:

Annual Conference October newsletter
 November Link magazine
 Central News October
 National membership Awards application. No suitable candidate suggested.

9. Events and fund raising:
 - 9.1. Steve Donnolly is holding a Remembrance Gig at the Bolton Arms. If anyone plans to attend could they please take a contactless unit with them. (No offers)
 - 9.2. Sunday 9th 9am Muster for the Remembrance Parade here.
 - 9.3. Poppy Launch dinner will be 24th October 2026. DJ and Caterer already booked.
 - 9.4. We will be planning our Summer Ball shortly

10. A.O.B:
 - 10.1. DM thanked Mark Taylor for all the help he has given us, decorating the hall for the dinner, and with Poppy Appeal and all the jobs he does without us realising.
 - 10.2. IP visited the Standing With Giants display in Portsmouth, which closed in a few days.
 - 10.3. JK mentioned the Tower of London Poppy Installation which closes on Sunday 9th
 - 10.4. TR asked whether we could add our Br QR code to the Order of Service for Sunday. Rick Bourne offered to do so. TR will deliver stickers on Friday.
 - 10.5. TR noted that despite all our efforts we still have a shortage of volunteers for the Poppy Appeal. SC added that the WS need more members.
 - 10.6. John Davie informed that the OB+L Carnival will go ahead on 20th June 2026. They have formed a new committee.
 - 10.7. TM asked whether we could fund a taxi for one of our members to get home from Brompton Hospital. We advised that the family need to contact RBL first.
 - 10.8. SC asked whether we have had a reply from the Council about the grant request for Car Park repairs. We advised this is a Club matter. TM advised they have not had a reply yet.
 - 10.9. Andy Dawes asked what progress we have made finding ways to use our BPT funding. Pete Pullin (Hants Standard Bearer and Surrey County MEO) had advised him we could give the money to County Welfare. This is incorrect.
 - 10.9.1. We have drawn a blank with the organisations we contacted with offers to assist and would be pleased to find a way to legitimately use the BPT. We are unable to alter the terms of the BPT.
 - 10.9.2. TR stated the RBL are looking at ways to legally expand the terms of all BPT's to unlock funds.
 - 10.9.3. JK suggested anyone with an idea should log into Discover (?) and check the BPT handbook for the exact rule under which they would wish to clam funding, then submit the appropriate request.
 - 10.10. Food for the Remembrance lunch on Sunday will be provided by TM and funded by the proceeds of the raffle.

The next meeting will be a Social on 4th December at 7.30pm. IP requested we all dress in Christmas attire.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Ian Greenway, Chairman